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HANDEL'S WATER MUSIC.

Handel's "Water-music" was a peace offering. It appears from his biography, that on his second visit to England, at the end of the year 1712, he failed to return to his situation of chapel-minister to the Elector of Hanover, and that in consequence thereof, when the said Elector succeeded to the throne of England as George I., he found himself out of court favor.

To avert the King's displeasure, Baron Kilmansegge, Handel's old patron, devised the following expedient. Having arranged a party of pleasure on the Thames, and prevailed upon the King to join it, he advised Handel to compose some music for the occasion. Handel accordingly wrote the celebrated "Water-music," and the Baron had it performed by a band stationed in a barge, which followed that of the King. His majesty (no very bad judge it would appear), was charmed with its beauty, and asked the name of the composer, upon which the baron replied that it was the production of a faithful servant of his majesty, who, conscious of the just cause he had given for offence to so gracious a protector, durst not approach the royal presence until he had received his Majesty's forgiveness.

The intercession appears to have been effectual, as Handel shortly afterwards received substantial tokens of his Majesty's goodwill; the pension of £200 granted him by Queen Anne was doubled, and a few years afterwards, when he was employed to teach the princesses, Queen Caroline added an additional pension of £200.

The work, which would seem to have been eminently adapted to the purpose for which it was composed, consists of an overture and a series of short movements of considerable beauty.

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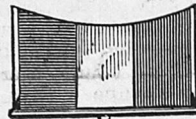
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